

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the outstanding Official Action mailed October 17, 2002, the shortened statutory period for filing a response having expired on January 17, 2003. In this regard, Applicants submit herewith a Three-Month Extension Petition to reset the deadline for responding to the Official Action to and including April 17, 2003. In view of the above amendments and within remarks, reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has raised an objection to dependent claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as lacking insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "said first surface." Applicants have amended the limitation to overcome the objection, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-28, directed to an interposer, are subject to examination in this application, of which claims 1, 21 and 27 are presented in independent form. The Examiner has rejected all claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *DiStefano, et al.*, United States Patent No. 5,590,460. The Examiner states, *inter alia*, that "each contact (80) being adapted to deform (See figures 8-9) so that the periphery of the contact will contract radially inwardly toward the central portion (figure 9) of the contact in response to urging said periphery (84) of the contact against a contact pad...". However, it will be shown that *DiStefano, et al.* does not anticipate Applicants' claimed invention.

Applicants' claims are distinguished over *DiStefano, et al.* by the periphery of the contacts or the associated tab deforming radially "inwardly" towards the central portion of the contact. In *DiStefano, et al.*, the contacts deformed radially

"outwardly". This distinction was pointed out in Applicants' specification in paragraph 0015. It is specifically stated that as to *DiStefano, et al.*, "Each contact has a central axis normal to the surface and a peripheral portion adapted to expand radially outwardly from the central axis in response to a force applied by a pad on an engaged circuit panel." The Examiner's reference to Figs. 8 and 9 of *DiStefano, et al.* clearly discloses the periphery of the contacts expanding radially "outwardly", and not radially "inwardly", as claimed by Applicants. See also the abstract in *DiStefano, et al.* Accordingly, the Examiner is incorrect in characterizing the contacts in the cited reference as deforming radially inwardly as claimed by Applicants. Therefore, as a matter of law, *DiStefano, et al.* does not anticipate Applicants' claimed invention.

In considering Applicants' within response, Applicants designate the rejected dependent claims as being allowable by virtue of their ultimate dependency upon submittedly allowable independent claims. Although Applicants have not separately argued the patentability of each of the dependent claims, Applicants' failure to do so is not to be taken as an admission that the features of the dependent claims are not themselves separably patentable over the prior art cited by the Examiner.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is

respectfully requested that he telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: April 3, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By

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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

18. (AMENDED) An interposer as claimed in claim 17, wherein each said conductor extends substantially perpendicularly to said first major surface.

21. (AMENDED) An interposer for making connections to pads on the surface of a microelectronic element, said pads defining holes therein, comprising:

(a) an interposer body having a first surface; and  
(b) a plurality of contacts on said body, each said contact comprising a central portion extending through said first surface into said body, and a peripheral portion extending radially from said central portion on or above said first surface, said peripheral portion of each said contact being adapted to bend downward, toward said body, and radially inward towards the central portion of the contact, and said central portion adapted to remain substantially undeformed, in response to a force on said peripheral portion directed downwardly toward said body.